

I strongly agree that handicapped individuals sometimes have difficulty earning and utilizing an Amateur License. On many occasions I have communicated with such individuals using the mode known as Morse Code or CW because that was the only way they could communicate due to their handicap.

If morse code, Element 1, is eliminated as a requirement for HF operation, who will these handicapped individuals be able to communicate with?

I strongly support retention of Morse Code as a requirement for the General and Extra Class Amateur License.

Many times in the past few years I have observed Amateur HF stations having to resort to CW transmissions in order to establish contact during net operations due to atmospheric or other conditions making contact by SSB extremely difficult or totally impossible. When the station determines to use an alternate method of establishing contact, it is extremely easy for the other station to recognize the mode of transmission just by detection of the audio by his/her ear. Transferring to that alternate mode of communications is very simple and requires no additional equipment to recover the intelligence of the transmission (no computer, converters, etc.). In an emergency situation this mode of alternate transmission may make the difference in a life and death situation.

Because Amateurs are expected to be able to provide emergency communications when all other methods are not available, the Morse Code mode could be extremely critical.

I also would like to permit Technician Class Amateurs without the code element to have access to the 80-meter Novice/Tech Plus sub-band for on-the-air training in CW operation.